

Ershad's trial

Accounts were maintained by JP office clerk, Tajul tells court

Tajul Islam Chowdhury, MP, a defence witness in the corruption case against the deposed president HM Ershad, Sunday denied having tampered with the register of the Jatiya Party that maintained accounts of members' subscriptions, reports BSS.

Tajul Islam, a former minister and at present office secretary of the Jatiya Party, told the Special Tribunal during the cross-examination that the register was maintained by an office (JP office) clerk.

Tajul Islam, first of the several defence witnesses named earlier, was examined for the 7th day Sunday.

In his voluntary statement before the court which called off for the day, he said the clerk used to maintain daily accounts of the money deposited against membership subscriptions.

Retracting that he did not maintain the register, the defence witness stated that the register was deposited with the court to facilitate the proceedings. The clerk used to keep the accounts on daily basis and the amount was then

deposited with the party chairman former president HM Ershad from time to time.

Earlier, Attorney General Aminul Haq told the defence witness that he would ask him a total of 65 questions. He said if Tajul replied in one sentence, he would have nothing to say.

The defence witness denied any manipulation. He however, admitted that there were some corrections on different occasions.

The Attorney General also wanted to know from the defence witness whether he agreed that some words and figures were altered. Tajul replied that it was not a commercial office. Flaws and mistakes were quite possible, he said adding "We had no idea that we would have to face court".

During the cross-examination which continued for more than two hours, the defence witness also agreed that the altered figures were higher than the original ones.

The proceedings will resume today.



THE TEESTA, THE SORROW OF GANGACHARA PEOPLE: The river has eroded vast areas of Alambidhitor and Naohali unions under the upazila in last three years, rendering many families homeless and causing an acute crisis of food and work.

Organise youths to remove poverty: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Sunday underscored the need for organising the youths as a productive force to remove poverty and illiteracy from the country, reports BSS.

The President called for setting up industries in a large scale to provide jobs to the of unemployed youths.

President Biswas was talking to an 18-member delegation of Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Sechhcha Sebak Sangstha led by its convener Kazi Assaduzzaman at Bangabhaban.

The President also said all lands must be brought under cultivation because Bangladesh will have to attain self-sufficiency in food for its survival.

Paying rich tribute to Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman, who first organised the youths of the country to utilise their forces for productive purposes, President Biswas said if the present-day youths were inspired by the late leader's ideals Bangladesh will soon become self-reliant.

The President told the youths to help the government to root out corruption from the society and raise their voice against injustice and terrorism.

Engineers' report

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Force, Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, explained the recommendations to Begum Zia.

The task force constituted 10-subcommittees to tackle various problems following the cyclone and other natural calamities.

The committees are on coastal embankments, bridges, culverts and roads, telecommunications, cyclone shelters, building and housing, power system, water supply and sanitation, national disaster management, industries and environment and energy.

They also referred to some service and professional problems to Begum Zia.

The Prime Minister thanked them for preparing task report and recalled their contributions in other national crisis.

Begum Zia said she would look into their problems and try to solve those.

Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr. M Shahjahan, Syed Kamrul Alam, Ruhul Mattin, Dr. Fazle Rahman, Prof. Jamshiduzzaman, Sheikh Hasmat Ali, MAK Azad, Mujibur Rahman, Jalal Uddin Mohammad Abdul Hye and former minister Dr. RA Ghani were present.

Parliament passes SPARRSO Bill

The Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation Bill, 1991 was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Sunday night without any resistance to give legal entity to SPARRSO which has been functioning since 1985, reports UNB.

Jail killing issue comes up for discussion in JS

By Staff Correspondent
The jail killings of November 3, 1975 were termed as 'inhuman and tragic' in the Jatiya Sangsad Sunday night.

During an unscheduled discussion on the issue, Opposition members urged the government to publish the report of the enquiry commission on the killing of four national leaders in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Shortly after the question-answer hour, Shamsuddoha of the CPB took the floor and urged the House to pay respects to the four national leaders — Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Mansur Ali and Kamruzzaman. He mentioned that the leaders were brutally killed on this day while they were detained in prison. He said that the killings were a violation of Article 32 of the Constitution. The CPB leader asked for a statement from the Deputy Leader of the House on the issue.

Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury said that obituary references for the four leaders were made in Parliament in 1979. He maintained that the same obituary references cannot be repeated. He, however, termed the killing of the four leaders a tragic incident and mentioned that an enquiry into the killings was also arranged then.

Workers Party MP Rashed Khan Menon said that an enquiry commission with three Judges was constituted by the government of Justice Sayem to enquire into the inhuman killings in the jail.

The commission submitted a report to the government, but the report was never published. Menon said that the killers could be identified if the report was made public. He demanded publication of the report and reminded that the government was committed to stop the politics of coup and killing.

River erosion

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He said that in addition effective dredging should be done to increase the depth of the Teesta now carrying bulks of sand, mainly emanating from human activities like deforestation in the upper catchment area of the river.

During the visit to Pirganj this correspondent also found that five unions — Kukria, Bara Alampur, Chatra, Kabilpur and Panchgachi were being eroded by the Karatoa. In these areas about 8000 families have been rendered homeless.

The erosion by the Jamuna is the worst. The people in the local areas say that the river is totally unpredictable.

This correspondent during his visit to Sariakanda upazila under Bogra district saw that thousands of people had been rendered homeless. In the past two years the Jamuna has eroded about two miles of its banks rendering 4500 families homeless. All of them now residing on the embankment.

The river is also eroding at the Dhanur and Kazipur points while the Sirajganj town itself is being threatened by the erosion of the river Jamuna.

The UNO of Sariakanda also

holding the charge of Chairman of this upazila said that in this upazila a total of 31,000 families had been affected due to floods. He also said that in this upazila the aman crop had been totally damaged. He also urged the government to allocate more relief for the affected people in this upazila. He said that the validity period of special VGD cards should be extended for at least two more months.

Besides hundreds of thousands of families in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha have been rendered shelterless due to river erosion. In all these areas the government should continue relief operations for at least three more months till the harvesting of the 'aas' crop.

Local political leaders and administration officials said that had there not been any erosion by the rivers the people in these areas would not have had to wait for relief to sustain themselves.

They said that North Bengal is the granary of Bangladesh but the people in this area are the most vulnerable to the whims of the rivers that cause tremendous ecological problems.

KAFCO

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The handout said KAFCO is a joint venture private sector project where the main equity holders are Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) and some organisations of Britain, Japan and Denmark. The loan financing has been obtained from organisations in Japan, Romania, USA and Italy, it added.

Negotiations are still going on between the government and the share holders of KAFCO, the handout said.

Meanwhile, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharrar Hossain said a four-man committee with Industries Secretary has been formed to examine in detail the points under negotiation.

Talking to UNB at his parliament office this evening, the Minister said one of the points is the low price of gas in relation to its current market rate.

He said since BCIC has to supply gas to the project on deferred payment basis as stipulated in the existing agreement, the Bangladesh Gas Fields Ltd will be hard hit financially.

Another point is the question of providing export credit guarantee by the Government of Bangladesh.

Democracy

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cratic system so that the nation could attain desired economic progress and encourage investors at home and abroad. The donors look for stability since this is pre-requisite for development, she said.

Replying to a question Mrs Chalker said she had some "tough discussions" with government leaders here on financial matters and added that certain tough economic measures already taken by the government were necessary.

"Absolutely right" was her answer to a question if the structural adjustment done by the government in August last at the suggestions of the IMF was okay. "But more is needed to be done as there is no option to certain steps necessary for larger interest of the people" she observed.

"We will do everything possible to sustain democracy here" she said adding Britain gave no assistance to Burma as democracy was crushed there.

Details on Page 7

Hasina

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was also ready to "teach the neo-autocrats."

The public meeting followed other programmes which included hoisting of party flags half-mast and black flags atop all party offices in the city and elsewhere and offering fatcha at the Banani graveyards of the four leaders and holding of milad there.

Hasina said democracy was achieved at the cost of blood. But the elected BNP government was instigating terrorism, destroying spirit of the war of independence, rehabilitating the 'rajakars' and resorting to repression on the opposition workers throughout the country in a planned way, she alleged.

"You have become the Prime Minister but you don't know how to practise democracy. You are still living in Cantonment," Hasina told in an indirect reference to Khaleda Zia.

The present government instead of containing terrorism was harbouring it. Workers of Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal, BNP's student wing were killing those of Chhatra League, Hasina alleged adding, the administration was not being allowed to work independently and being used for partisan interests.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad and other AL central leaders Begum Johra Tajuddin, Begum Sajeda Choudhury MP, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Momin Talukder, and Mozaffar Hossain Paltu also addressed the meeting.

Abdus Samad Azad, while criticising the government for not passing the Indemnity Repeal Bill, also called for publication of the report of the inquiry commission that had been formed after the killing of the four leaders.

Johra Tajuddin said the present government would be accountable to the people if it did not ensure trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and four national leaders.

Sajeda Choudhury said failure of the people in power to pass the Indemnity Bill would only give the people to understand that they also had involvement in the killings. She also blamed the government for rehabilitating the anti-liberation forces at different levels of administration.

Mohammad Nasim strongly condemned the BNP chief for not ordering suspension of JCD activists on the DU campus and commented she had no control over her student activists.

The Midnight File

Four militants die in Kashmir gunbattle

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Four Muslim militants and four civilians were killed in violence linked to a bloody Muslim secessionist campaign in the Indian state of Kashmir. Among the dead was Hashim Hykal, chief commander of the Islamia Inquilab Force (IIF), who was shot dead Saturday by security forces in a gunbattle in Baramulla district, PTI said, report AFP.

Army search for Sikh rebels

AMRITSAR, Nov 3: Thousands of troops Sunday launched search operations for Sikh rebels in an insurgency ridden district of Punjab state. About 11,000 to 12,000 Indian army soldiers launched operation "Night Thunder" in Taran district at 7 pm (1330GMT), said a senior police official in the district, reports AP.

Soviet Day without tanks

MOSCOW, Nov 3: For decades, Soviet leaders paraded soldiers and rockets through Red Square in a brass celebration of their holiest day: the November 7 anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. But no goose steps will pound the cobblestones this year. They have been silenced for the first time since World War II by the rout of the Communist Party and its hard-liners after the August push. —reports AP.

Renewed Bodo violence in Assam: 20 killed

GUWAHATI, Nov 3:

Renewed violence by suspected bodo extremists has claimed at least 20 lives and injured over 100, several of them seriously, in Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Nalbari and Kamrup districts of Assam during the last 48 hours, reports PTI.

Official reports reaching here Sunday said the election officer of Bijnai, R C Kalita, was stabbed to death at Bijnai, while a businessman of Basuganj was shot dead by bodo extremists on Saturday.

The army and police forces have intensified security measures in the districts.

Among those killed during the period were four Assam Police task force personnel who died when their jeep was blown up by bodo extremists on the Oltapani road in Kokrajhar district on Friday last. The ultras fled with the arms and ammunition being carried by patrol party.

The sources said that two jawans of the Assam police battalion were injured in Kokrajhar district Saturday.

Two foreigners detained at ZIA with \$1,29,800

Customs at Zia International Airport (ZIA) Sunday detained two foreign nationals and seized 129,800 US dollars, reports UNB.

The two female nationals of Ghana — Shelly Brown and Thudira — arrived at ZIA by a Thai Airways flight at around 1-15 pm from Bangkok, customs sources said.

Customs officials challenged them and seized the undeclared amount as they denied having anything to declare while passing through the green channel of the airport.

A foreign national is required to declare the currency if he carries more than 2,500 US dollars.

Malaysia

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could be fined up to 10,000 dollars (about 3,700 US) or sentenced to two years in prison, he said.

He also said foreign housemaids who married Malaysians were not excluded from the current campaign by the immigration Department to register foreign workers who have entered the country illegally.

On October 17, the government announced that the relaxed rules governing foreign workers would also apply to domestic maids whose work permits would now be extended on a year-to-year basis.

"We cannot recognise their marriage if they entered the country illegally," Megat Junid was quoted as saying.

Megat Junid said employers preferred to hire illegal immigrants to save the 2,000 dollar (740-US) fee charged by employment agencies.

HRC

is on the move

With a view to accommodate all the business divisions on one floor our Dhaka office has w. e. f. Nov/01/91 moved to a bigger premises.

All concerned are requested to kindly note change of our new address:

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